

Baroness Lola Young

Baroness Lola Young was formerly Head of Culture at the Greater London Authority and before that Professor of Cultural Studies at Middlesex University: she is currently a visiting professor at Birkbeck College, University of London, Honorary Associate Fellow at Warwick University and a Member of the Court of Governors of the London School of Economics.

She has served on several boards in the arts and voluntary sector, and is currently Chair of Nitro Theatre Company, a Non-Executive Director of The National Archives and a member of the Southbank Centre Board of Directors. As well as chairing the judging panels for major prizes such as the Orange Prize and the Caine Prize, Baroness Young has peer-reviewed the Arts Council of England and the UK Film Council and served as an advisor to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

She has written and broadcast extensively on culture, identity, film, arts and media, and advised national organisations on culture and diversity issues.

She was awarded an OBE in 2001 and appointed as a life peer in 2004.

Baroness Young founded Cultural Brokers (arts and heritage consultancy) in 2004 and has completed working on a major national programme of artists' commissions concerned with the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British colonies - *Freedom and Culture* which cumulated with the *International Creative Forum* at the Southbank Centre in November 2007. She has been invited to speak at numerous national and international conferences, events, including the United Nations, academic institutions, and creative/arts/media conferences.

Baroness Young is a member of the House of Lords' EU Sub-committee G on Social Policy and Consumer Affairs, and has recently been appointed Chair of the Commonwealth Group on Culture and Development.